Railways-bridge on rail line between Nirmali and Bhaptiyahi

†1450. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated expenditure on the railways-bridge under construction for the proposed rail-line between Nirmali and Bhaptiyahi of the Eastern-Central Railway and the provision of funds made in the current year's budget;

(b) the amount incurred on the construction of bridge and the details of the progress of work;

(c) whether the expenditure on inauguration programme of the bridge is also included in it, if so, the amount likely to be spent thereon; and

(d) the target laid down for the completion of this bridge and the proposed rail-line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The total anticipated cost of work of mega bridge over river Kosi alongwith link lines between Nirmali-Bhaptiyahi is Rs. 323.41 cr. An outlay of Rs. 10 cr. has been allocated for the work in Budget 2003-2004.

(b) and (c) This is a new work which has been included in the Budget 2003-2004 and expenditure incurred on the work during the year would be known only after finalisation of accounts after closure of financial year. Final location survey has been taken up. Tender awarded for earthwork in 6 km length from Nirmali side and work taken up. The expenditure incurred on inauguration programme of the Bridge also forms part of the work.

(d) The work is targeted for completion in about 6 years time.

Sharing of project cost by Maharashtra in MUTP

1451. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects in Mumbai Urban Transport Project Phase II (MUTP) to be taken up and the approximate expenditure thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) whether the Maharashtra State Government has agreed to share 50 per cent of the projects cost; and

(c) when the work of the projects would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) It has been decided to take up 10 projects under Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) Phase-II. The approximate cost of these projects has been estimated as Rs. 3502 crores.

(b) Government of Maharashtra has agreed to share 50 percent cost of seven projects. Their consent for sharing 50% cost of the remaining three projects is being obtained.

(c) It is planned to take up MUTP Phase-II during 2005-06. However, work on the two sanctioned projects is in progress.

Mining activity near Jodhpur-Delhi rail track

1452. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Konkan rail accident which occured recently had taken place after the special holiday train hit boulders and debris from a landslide;

(b) whether similar landslide or subsidence are taking place in Makrana where mining is common and mining activity in the vicinity of the Jodhpur-Delhi railway track is in clear violation of stipulated norms; and

(c) if so, what specific steps have been taken by Government to see the safety of all the trains including super fast trains which run on these tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No mining activity is in progress on Jodhpur-Delhi line near Makrana and there is no danger to track.

However, unauthorised mining is continuing on Makrana-Parbatsar branch line which has subsided and no trains are running on this branch line.